



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



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## President's Report

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My report this quarter concerns two matters of great importance to The Canal Zone Study Group. One is the Mail Sale, and this report will focus on the results of the 1994 Sale that I ran. It will also describe the prospects of success in running future sales.

But before my detailed comments about the Sale, I want to alert you to an announcement elsewhere in this issue concerning my appointment of the Nominating Committee for the election of officers to be held in the end of this year.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for developing a slate of officers for the CZSG for two years, beginning in January 1996. Your suggestions, which should be relayed to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, are an important part of their work. This year their job is particularly important because I will not be running for President again. Too many other things have been put off for too long. These include both philatelic and other obligations. When combined with my recent election as President of the Faculty Senate at the University

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## Meeting Notice

The Canal Zone Study Group will hold a meeting at STAMPSHOW 95 at the Annual Meeting of the American Philatelic Society in St. Louis, MO, Friday, August 25, 1995 from 4 to 6 pm. Room 126(?). Robert Stevenson and Richard A. Roth are the CZSG representatives. Talks are scheduled by Gary Weiss on CZ Airmail Special Delivery, and by Editor David J. Leeds on the ABNCo Specimens. All are welcome at the meeting.

## American Banknote Company Canal Zone "Specimens"

by James W. Crumpacker

This is the first of several articles planned for CZP that analyze and report on the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) Canal Zone "Specimen" sheets auctioned by Christie's in September 1990.

The American Bank Note Company produced stamps and other securities for countries worldwide, including most of Latin America as well as Bahamas, China, Greenland, Liberia, Hawaii, Belgium, Luxembourg, Philippines, and Canada. They were the principal supplier of Panama stamps from 1892 through 1924. (Fig. 1). The Hamilton Bank Note Company completed a single contract in 1906-1907.

Of the 60 Canal Zone lots in the auction of material from the ABNCo archives, most of the specimen sheets were purchased by a collector/dealer group. The

purpose of this acquisition was to philatelically document these issues before the stamps were dissipated through the collecting community. These lots consisted of some 180 sheets of stamps (mostly of 100 stamps each), about 46 uncut sheets of booklet panes, and 50 pieces of postal stationery. A portion of these specimen sheets were originally in a 20x10 format but were severed into two halves at the time of printing.

In order to present as comprehensive an overview as possible, we must include a discussion of the Christie's lots not purchased by the group. The auction incorporated specimen and other pre-issue subjects from some 25 countries/colonies, much of it contemporaneous with the Canal Zone material which is the main subject of this article. Most note-

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Fig. 1. ABNCo Panama Issue of 1892, 26 mm SPECIMEN.

## **ABNCo CZ “Specimens”**

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worthy may well have been a complete production file lot relating to U5 and UX6 Postal Stationery pieces, including sketches, trial impressions, composite and photographic models, progressive and final die proofs plus the associated worksheets and correspondence. Another lot had ten Canal Zone "Specimen" overprinted stamps attached to individual archival index cards on which were also the Panamanian die proof of each issue, with typed notes. This latter was not acquired by the group since equitable distribution of the cards among the participants would have been difficult.

The second category of "not available" lots are two groups of booklet pane material. The first is a number of completed booklet panes of six, with covers, of #38b, 39c, 52b, and 53c, most with overprint and security punch. The last included sheets and mock-up booklets of #68 and 69 unissued booklet panes. Hopefully these 20 or so items will turn up on the market or can otherwise be available for CZSG examination. A comparative analysis interpreting the relationship, if any, between "Specimen" overprints on United States stamps and the newly available Canal Zone material would be informative. Scott Specialized Catalogue illustrates the known forms utilized on U.S. stamps; preliminary data indicates that only a couple are similar.



Fig. 2. 11 mm ABNC<sub>0</sub> SPECIMEN.

The Scott catalogue has an orderly system for identifying and categorizing Specimen overprints. Scott Specimen Type D with all capital letters and varying dimensions appears identical, and was contemporaneous with the period during



Fig. 3. 14 mm ABNCo SPECIMEN.



Fig. 5. 13 mm Italic ABNC<sub>o</sub> SPECIMEN.

which ABNCo furnished stamps to the United States Post Office. Rather than assigning types, we are provisionally giving only dimensions. There are three different dimensional groups (11 mm, 14 to 15 mm, and 20 mm, plus a similar italics font of 13 mm). See Figs. 2 through 5.

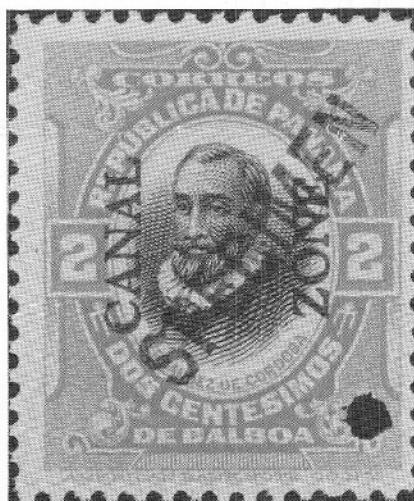


Fig. 4. 20 mm ABNC<sub>0</sub> SPECIMEN.

One gap in our knowledge is the degree of separation, internally within ABNCo, of the Foreign department from the American section and the simple truth that their various business segments printed everything from currency to stock certificates and street car tickets.

American Bank Note Co. was acquired by International Bank Note Co. on Feb. 7, 1973. The combination was not a success; after a series of bloody internecine battles among competing stockholder groups during much of the 1980s, International Bank Note merged with United States Banknote Co. on July 25, 1990.

While the quantities of stamps in the Christie's lots might seem adequate to supply collectors' needs, the numbers are misleading. The top two strips of 20 (10x2) usually contain the printing information, work order numbers, dates, and other archival data, and so will be held intact. Varieties noted have also been retained by the collectors as large blocks. Position pieces (arrow blocks, inscription blocks) further deplete the numbers left for distribution. Many, especially those where but one sheet or a partial sheet was auction-available, will be particularly scarce.

Happily, ABNCo used a date stamp on the selvage (usually on top) of the majority of sheets which indicates the apparent date of printing. In addition, a job/work order number in red ink consisting of the letter "F" (for Foreign) followed by four numerals, also in red, is on nearly every sheet (Fig. 6). In some cases these numbers match the job/work order number for an underlying basic Panama stamp normally found on the top selvage in the color of the stamp frame and/or vignette. For a fuller description, see pages 84-85 of *Canal Zone Stamps*.

The numerical sequence of these red job/work order numbers was entirely chronological, i.e., the higher the "F" number the later the printing date.

Sheets of "Specimen" stamps start with Scott CZ#31 and encompass all major numbers through CZ#69 except for #46-48 and #67 which were Mount Hope Printings. Included are sheets of the unissued high values of the 1924 Coat of Arms set, CZSG 69.A through 69.G, (Fig. 7) as made up for the International Bureau of the UPU and sheets of booklet panes of Scott #68 and 69 (in a format of three horizontal rows of eight booklet panes of six stamps each for a total of 144 stamps on a sheet). Any potential need for these ended with the abrogation of the Taft Agreement on June 1, 1924.

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to David J. Leeds, P.O. Box 491472, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Manuscripts should be typed double space or printed copy. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or phone the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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**Canal Zone Study Group**

## **Nominations and Elections Committee**

A nominating committee consisting of Richard Salz (Chairman), Irwin Gibbs, and David J. Leeds has been appointed to solicit nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus three members of the Board of Directors. They will also oversee the elections to be held this fall for two-year terms starting in January 1996. Please send your suggestions for these offices to any of the members of the committee. If you need an address, Leeds is also Editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* and his address appears elsewhere in this issue.

R.D. Bates, Jr.

## **Secretary's Report**

**John C. Smith  
408 Redwood Lane  
Schaumburg, IL 60193**

As of May 10, 1995, our membership stands at 885 members, including 58 hold-outs. As always, we do our best to retrieve them by sending out at least two reminder notices. The American Philatelic Society is having STAmpsHOW 95 in St. Louis, MO this August 24-27. Plans are to have a CZSG meeting. We hope you will be able to attend and make it a success. If anyone is interested in helping out at the Affiliate Table and/or at the meeting, please let me know as soon as possible. Your help is needed. Participation is very important to keep our hobby alive! We graciously accept member Robert Stevenson's offer to be the official CZSG Representative at this year's show. Also, Richard

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**Light duties, no pay.**



CZSG collectors planning to exhibit at Pacific 97 please contact the Editor.

'95 SANDICAL Report

A CZSG Regional Meeting was held in San Diego, California at SANDICAL '95, February 11, 1995. CZSG activities were discussed along with the publication schedule. Alan Klein spoke of his *Old Ironsides* exhibit (an APS Silver), "Old Ironsides Sails to San Diego." It was reworked for WESTPEX by the addition of a frame of covers, "Old Ironsides Sails to San Francisco". The Canal Zone origin covers were of particular interest (air-mail, autographed, and Panama franking) as were the Guantanamo covers with Cuban franking. Jim Noll led discussion of Money Order Branch forms and markings. The "hot" item was "Operation Safe Haven" (see previous issue).

## ABNCo CZ "Specimens"

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Fig. 6. ABNCo Specimens: "F" Numbers, Date, and Issue Room Handstamp.



Fig. 7. ABNCo Unissued Arms SPECIMEN.

The individual stamps have all been identified with a pencil inscription on the back giving the "F" number and sheet position. When there was more than one sheet the individual stamps have an additional identification as Sheet "A", "B", or "C". Thus any single stamp from the entire holding can be "plated".

The three sheets of the Eighth Series, #36 and 37, which turned up deserve special mention because of an associated discovery. The 10¢ and 13¢ map (#36) naturally lacks the 10¢ surcharge applied at Mount Hope. The associated discovery was one sheet each of the underlying Panama 13 centavo and 10 centavo order, "cancellation" proofs on a heavy cardstock paper, imperforate, ungummed, and without the Canal Zone overprint. The original 13¢ stamp was a special order by Panama for the Canal Zone of the 1904 Map issue since Panama had no use for this denomination. These two sheets are the only ones with manuscript cancellation dates, from October 1933. "Cancellation Proofs" are struck at the time of the retirement of the plate, usually in a distinctive green color. They also exist for most of the basic Panama designs. They are unpunched and do not have a "SPECIMEN" overprint. (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. ABNCo 1933 Cancellation Proof.

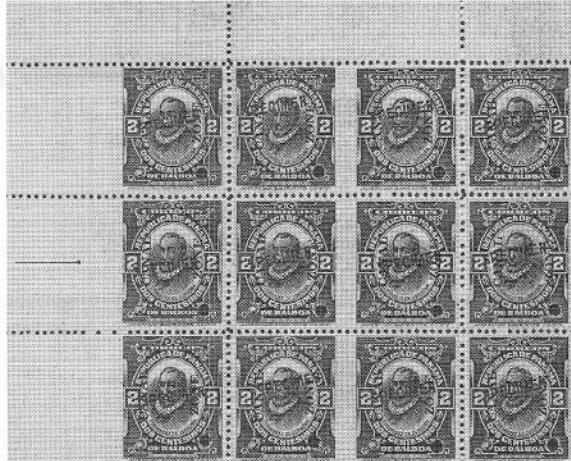


Fig. 9. ABNCo Uncut Booklet SPECIMEN.



Fig. 10. ABNCo Uncut, Unissued Arms Booklet SPECIMEN.

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former Scott #J4b bearing a selvage date stamp of Sept. 21, 1922, an issue delisted many years ago as completely bogus! (Fig. 12). A reappraisal of that action seems in order.



Fig. 11. ABNCo 4/4c Unissued SPECIMEN.



Fig. 12. ABNCo J4b SPECIMEN.

Also purchased by the group were about 50 pieces of Canal Zone postal stationery, each with the "F" number in red near the top. Some are also stamped "SPECIMEN" in red ink on the front. Many have holes punched to read "SPECIMEN A.B.N. Co." and others have two small circular punch holes. None has both types of punch marks. In addition, some bear a purple rubber stamp mark about 69x30mm reading:

RETURN TO  
ISSUE ROOM  
To be held for reference

This same or a similar marking is found on many of the Canal Zone sheets of stamps (Fig. 6) and on some Panamanian and Cuban lots in the auction as well. The lack of catalogue illustrations on most of the other countries' lots precludes a more thorough examination.

Four postal stationery samples were in manila envelopes which had been attached to the standard ABNCo Index Cards with typed instructions for die usage and mode of printing, with date. Scott #U1, U2, U4, U5, and UX4 (see CZP 112:17) are represented. Several single items of postal stationery went to other buyers, so our information is incomplete.

Not all printings known to exist were found in these lots. There were neither CZSG 31.A (Canal 10½mm long) sheets nor any CZSG 38.A (8½mm spacing)

sheets. Scott #J7 was absent from the run of postage dues. These and other such omissions will be analyzed in future CZP articles which will cover each series of stamps.

A number of varieties of the "SPECIMEN" overprint have been observed, including double overprints, inverted overprints, and overprint omitted. As the word "SPECIMEN" itself comes italicized, with vertical and near-vertical lettering, and in several sizes and colors, these are probably best reported in the separate articles dealing with each stamp, booklet, or stationery series. The impression of the word "SPECIMEN" onto the individual stamps is quite heavy and deep; a metal die was used and not a rubber stamp. Nearly all stamps have a circular punch hole (to invalidate their use for postage) and there are at least two sizes of hole.

The same "SPECIMEN" overprint appears to have been uniformly used on all 100 (or more, on some booklet sheets) positions of a given sheet with only one exception noted thus far: an uncut sheet of Scott #53c booklet panes dated Nov. 17, 1917 had two positions with a "SPECIMEN" overprint clearly different from that on the balance of the sheet. Much additional work remains on this aspect of these overprints.

Unfortunately, the general condition of the sheets was far from satisfactory. ABNCo obviously never contemplated sale of their archives when they handled and stored the material 70-80 years ago. Some sheets have heavy paper tape reinforcement on the back and scotch tape on the face, while others are missing whole chunks of selvage or even 1 to 15 stamps. A couple of booklet sheets were chopped into 3 1/2 panes on one side of a large sheet and 4 1/2 on the other.

Nearly all sheets were broken up at the WESTPEX show in San Francisco in May 1992 although they have not all been distributed. Prior to the breakup some sets of high-definition 11" x 17" color photocopies were made using a state-of-the-art Canon 500 laser copier. This size was usually sufficient to copy the stamps but not necessarily the selvage, so separate notes based on visual observation were made to preserve relevant selvage data. Some spacing notes and other recording was done from work with the full sheets of stamps themselves prior to their breakup. More or less complete photocopy sets were subsequently turned over to the APS and the Philatelic Foundation.

Of those of you who completed the Survey form late last year (results reported in the Second Quarter 1992 CZP issue) not a single person indicated a primary interest in a proofs/essays/specimen category. This was hardly unex-

pected at the time; there is a simple lack of available study information and material. We hope and expect that you will find these "SPECIMEN" stamps of interest in their own right and not just as reflections of the underlying postage issues.

As to discoveries from this work, the number of new spacing varieties runs to many dozens. Where an issue was thought to consist of two printings, there may now be evidence of five or six. Positions unknown and questions unanswered may now be resolved. Future CZP articles will cover as many aspects of the new information as possible, and contributions from members will be especially welcome. This is nearly a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn more about these issues.

## President's Report

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where I am a faculty member, this requires that this be my last year, at least for a while. I hope this will give me the opportunity to work on some long overdue writing, both articles for *The Canal Zone Philatelist* and the handbook on Canal Zone fakes which I have been promising to do for several years.

The section that follows constitutes my report as Sales Manager on the 1994 CZSG Mail Sale. This is the 23rd in the series of Annual Mail Sales the organization has run, going back to the initial sale run by George Stilwell in 1972. That Sale contained 540 lots from 12 vendors with a Catalogue and/or estimated value of \$17,075. The material sold for \$10,621 and yielded \$897 to the treasury of the Canal Zone Study Group. To compare, the 1994 Sale had the largest number of lots (1381), the largest number of lots sold (1226), the largest Catalogue and/or estimated value (\$186,922), the second highest gross sales (\$94,010), and the highest net to the CZSG (\$5137) of all the Sales run to date. The net to the CZSG as a percentage of sale was 5.46%, the highest since 1985. There were 218 bidders, 77% of whom were successful in getting at least one lot. I am able to include more lots (which also means I return fewer, though I do return items for excessive duplication and/or poor quality) because I use a computer to run the Sale and prepare the Catalogue; but this did mean that the percentage of Catalogue realized was just over 50%, the lowest of any of the 23 Sales, though this is not adjusted for the 155 lots that did not sell. The second chance Sale did increase the net by about \$3000 and resulted in about 80 additional lots being sold.

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## Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

This report covers auctions which took place in the first quarter, January 1 through March 31, 1995. The offerings were average for the season but with inclusions of better plate blocks and some outstanding price realizations as the quarter progressed.

The catalogue value from Scott's Specialized 1995 is given in parenthesis following the selling price shown; any commission is included. Again, note that at least seven major auction houses now have a 15% buyers' commission so some of the prices realized amounts may seem unusual.

- 1, OG, H, F (CZSG 1.4 two PANAMAs close together) \$330 (\$450) Weiss  
3, on cover 7/9/04 La Boca to Colon, F-VF \$165 (\$325) L. Newman  
10a, inverted overprint, OG, H, VF \$242 (\$200) Ivy & Mader  
14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, H, F-VF \$374 (\$350) Ivy & Mader  
15 var., PANAMAs 15mm long also with ovpt. shifted vertically (CZSG 15.8b), dried OG, H, VF \$1725 (\$2750) Ivy & Mader  
22, on real photo ppc 12/16/08 NY & CANAL ZONE RPO duplex \$20 (\$n/a) L. Newman  
23d, double overprint, one diagonal, dist. OG, H, VF \$443 (\$750) Ivy & Mader  
24c, double overprint, OG, H, XF \$322 (\$400) Ivy & Mader  
33a, double overprint, OG, H, F \$176 (\$300) Weiss  
39e, inverted center and overprint, TG, XF \$495 (\$850) Weiss  
46b, double overprint, TG, H, F margin copy \$99 (\$275) LaTuchie  
48, OG, H, VF margin copy \$242 (\$550) Christie's  
55 var., LL stamp without overprint in corner margin bl. of 4, the former 55f, caused by foldover, OG, H, VF+ \$1540 (\$n/a) Weiss  
58, OG, H, F \$132 (\$250) Philstamps  
59, OG, H, VF \$144 (\$140) Superior  
67, OG (partially dried), H, F-VF \$518 (\$500) Ivy & Mader  
79, pl. bl. of 6, OG, NH, F-VF \$275 (\$550) LaTuchie  
84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, VF \$242 (\$250) Ivy & Mader  
84d, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, F-VF \$121 (\$200) LaTuchie  
88, pl. bl. of 6, OG (nat. gum creases), H, F-VF \$299 (\$375) Ivy & Mader  
91a, ZONE only, OG, H, perfs just touch frame at left, F margin copy \$575 (\$800) Ivy & Mader

94, OG, H, F-VF \$132 (\$250) Philstamps

95, C4, C5 (pair) and US \$1.30 Zepp. on F-VF cover 5/22/30 Cristobal/NY/Lakehurst/Friedrichshafen via Zeppelin (Si. #64) \$1650 (\$n/a) Cherrystone  
97, OG, NH, F-VF margin copy \$46 (\$40) Cee-Jay

C1, C3 (bl. 4), 107 on VF cover 8/23/29 Balb Heights/Lakehurst/Friedrichshafen via Zeppelin (Si. #32) \$1650 (\$n/a) Cherrystone

C2, pl. bl. of 6, OG, NH, F \$875 (\$1000) LaTuchie

C25a, horiz. pair imperf vert, OG (gum bends as usual), NH, F \$523 (\$900) Weiss

J17, pl. bl. of 6, dried OG, H, F \$219 (\$550) Ivy & Mader

J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, dried OG, H, VF \$460 (\$450) Ivy & Mader

J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, TG, about F in pair with normal \$209 (\$450) Weiss

J19a, ZONE ZONE, dried OG, H, F-VF in bl. 4 with three normals \$1553 (\$1545) Ivy & Mader

CO12, CTO, OG, H, F-VF \$105 (\$180) Cee-Jay

U2b, (UPSS 2c), head and overprint only, light soil, otherwise VF \$633 (\$1600) Superior

U15, (UPSS 37), mint, XF \$121 (\$250) Weiss

U15, (UPSS 38), cancelled Balboa Hts. 6/11/34 (very early), \$165 (\$150) Weiss

UX8, (UPSS S15), mint, VF \$44 (\$75) Cee-Jay

The addresses of the mentioned auction houses are shown below. Kindly reference CZP when requesting catalogues.

Cee-Jay Stamp Auctions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 321  
Waldorf, ND 20604

Cherrystone Auctions, Inc.  
119 W. 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

Christie's  
502 Park Ave.  
New York, NY 10022

Ivy & Mader Philatelic Auctions, Inc.  
32 E. 57th St.  
11th floor  
New York, NY 10022-2513

Herb LaTuchie Auctions  
2128 Front St.  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

L.S. Newman & Co.  
1500 Harbor Blvd.  
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Philstamps

505 N. Arrowhead Ave.  
Suite 507  
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Superior Stamp and Coin  
9478 W. Olympic Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-0754

Weiss Philatelics  
P.O. Box 5358  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

## Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

*The Feasors: One Whistleblower versus Malfeasors, Misfeasors, and Nonfeasors in the Federal Government* by Irvin H. Mason (Mason Engineering Corporation, 100 Anchor Drive, Suite 429, North Key Largo, FL 33037; 1993) (ISBN 0-9635749-0-6), 159 pages, paperbound 8 1/2" x 11", \$11.95.

Some of the more interesting books about the Panama Canal or set in the canal area have been small, private, or vanity press publications. This is one of them. It is about the author's flight with the Panama Canal Company (PCC) and various governmental agencies. The unique situation of the Canal Zone being an United States enclave with a separate jurisdiction color Mr. Mason's experience.

Mr. Mason was fired in early 1971 during his one-year probationary period as Chief of Estimates in the Engineering Division of the PCC. He chronicles the difficulty he had during his time of employment and his subsequent battles with the U.S. government. He claims that he became aware of illegal and shoddy practices within the Zone while performing his duties, and when he tried to correct these, he was fired and eventually deported from the Zone. His war of vindication essentially consumed about a decade of his life and in a way still continues. The book's final chapter gives a balanced account of the plight of any whistleblower, even today.

Mr. Mason and his family did not withdraw from this field of battle. Their fight was costly and full of adventure—he was arrested in the Zone and at one point the family received asylum in Panama. He filed many complaints and suits and interacted with people at all levels of government.

Some of the documents he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act reinforce his claims. Being involved in anything like this can tarnish both sides, and books like this can appear to be self-serving. However, considering that Mr. Mason's story is very believable and that some material that is unflattering to Mr. Mason is included, this book should be taken seriously.

## Designer Autographs III

The cover shown sports signatures of three historically important Canal Zone figures. It is addressed to Captain Benjamin Corning and bears his signature on the back. Corning was Master of the *S.S. Ancon* when it was the first ship to transit the Canal on opening day, August 15, 1914.

Architect Meade Bolton, Panama Canal Office of Engineers was the designer of

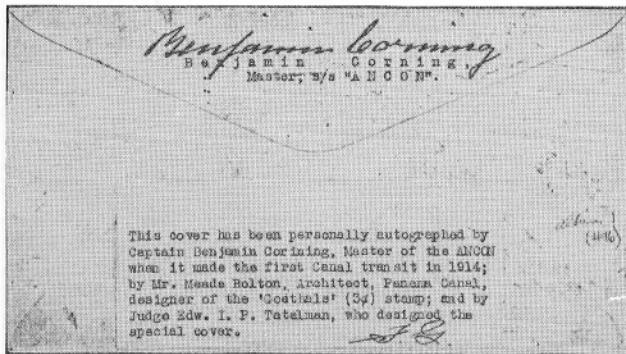
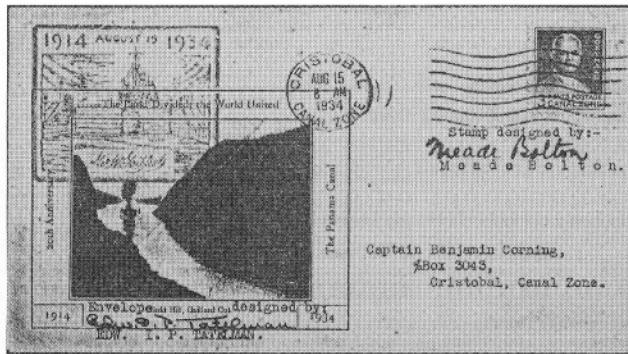
the 3¢ Goethals stamp. His signature is under the stamp, cancelled on its first day of issue. As chairman of the Canal Zone Stamp Design Committee Bolton is also credited with the designs of several other Canal Zone stamps: Scott #136-141, and C6-C14. He also did the original pen sketches for the Gold Rush Centennial issue, #142-145 (See CZP 83:12). Bolton retired April 30, 1949.

The third signature is that of Judge

Edward I. P. Tatelman, designer of the cachet on the cover shown. Tatelman, a well known Canal Zone philatelist, was the official philatelist's representative on the Stamp Design Committee. He is the author of *Canal Zone Postage Stamps* published by the Canal Zone Postal Service in 1961.

Thanks are due Dr. David Gregory for bringing this cover to our attention.

John C. Smith



Autographs of Stamp and Cachet Designers.

## President's Report

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A major factor in the high net to the CZSG in the 1994 Sale was the low expenses, totalling \$4297, less than any Sale since 1987. In fact, expenses this year were 20% less than in 1988, the last time I ran the Sale. And the expenses to net sales ratio was the lowest since 1987. The major reason for that was the reduced cost of printing the Catalogue. This year we used a new process to prepare the illustrations, starting with a high quality black and white copy prepared on a color photocopier, which was then used as the original to photocopy the Catalogue. Previously, the Catalogue was printed rather than photocopied, using plates prepared by photographing the illustration pages. The entire process this year cost less than the printing alone in 1988, and several hundred more copies of the Catalogue were prepared. The CZSG also benefited tremendously from a printer who gave a very low price, and was exceedingly patient and careful with me in handling the material to get the best quality product. The only mistake we made was to set the contrast on the final run of the Catalogue using the pages of stamp illustrations, which had significant amounts of black in the background. This caused the cover illustrations to lack the contrast visible in the originals.

Any of us who has run the CZSG Mail Sales appreciate the many compliments that we receive on the success of the Sale.

I thank each of you who provided comments. And I apologize to those of you who made special requests that time constraints did not permit me to honor, though I still hope to follow through on them this summer. We also accept constructive criticism as it can give us ideas on ways to improve our efforts. Some comments, however, are less satisfying, generally because the writer seems to have forgotten that this is an all-volunteer operation. That generally means that the time devoted to it by the volunteers has to be taken from what is available, working around possible job and family obligations, and other calls on our "free" time. To expect, or in some cases to demand, that every step should occur on the same timetable that a commercial operation can provide is unreasonable. They have paid employees, often with facilities designed to do the job rather than working off the dining room table, and they often charge much higher commissions or are primarily selling their own material. We charge only 10%, and only to the seller, and the postage we charge is only what we put on the package to send it to you. We can do that because the "other half" is provided by the efforts of volunteers. This year I was aided tremendously by Bob Karrer who helped me with the descriptions and estimates on covers and non-standard material, and by Dick Salz who stopped by on his travels to help me close the Sale. They contributed significantly to the

success of the Sale, and I probably never would have made it without their help. Closing was especially nighmarish, as I am also Vice-President of my son's youth ice hockey organization. My function last year and this coming season is as scheduler, which means planning, confirming, and overseeing the game times of 32 teams. The Saturday that Dick arrived, I had to be in Philadelphia most of the day to schedule our teams that play in the league based in the Delaware Valley so that I could not even meet him. Then I left him to answer the phone and take the final bids all day Sunday while I attended another meeting to set up the schedules of the league that includes Maryland, northern Virginia, and Delaware.

Over these 23 years, more than \$67,000 has been generated by the annual Mail Sales for the CZSG treasury, primarily to fund the handbooks we publish and the book *Canal Zone Stamps*. More than half of the Sales have been run by Dick Salz, who will be running the 1995 Sale. George Stilwell has run seven, this was my third, and Brad Wilde has run one. For this Sale I was a last minute replacement. But after Dick Salz runs the 1995 Sale, we have no one on line to do the Sale in 1996. We run the risk of breaking our string of consecutive annual sales. Running a Sale is a great volunteer activity for someone early in retirement. We are looking for a volunteer.

# Joseph P. Coveleski

## Auction Results

### March 14, 1931

by Richard H. Salz

For many years I have had a copy of the Joseph P. Coveleski auction catalog but was unable to find a copy of prices realized. A copy of the Frank Marquis catalog with prices pencilled in has surfaced; very likely realizations were not published in 1931.

The sale must have been a disaster for the heirs and a bargain for bidders, but recall that it was 1931 in the depths of the depression.

One of the problems in figuring out what was in the sale is due to the simplified classification used in the 1932 Scott Catalog which combine the five types of overprints of the portrait issues into single numbers, #41-45. An exception is noted in a cover lot which indicates a Mt. Hope printing (now Type III).

There were 19 cover and 171 stamp lots (including 25 lots of #14, 18, 19, and 20 without CANAL ZONE overprints.) The sale also included 345 lots of Panama material which brought even lower prices.

The listing of prices realized accounts for 20% of the Canal Zone lots and is representative of the overall realizations. Scott numbers are used unless CZSG indicated.

The following handwritten letter confirms the date of death.

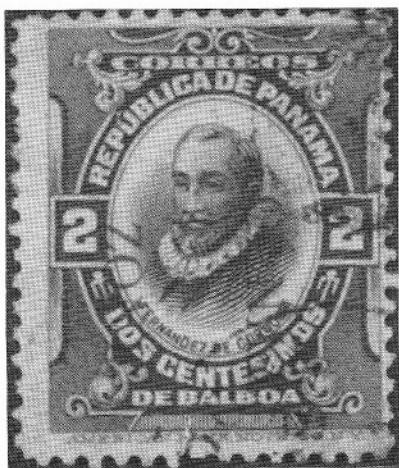
Mt. Carmel, Pa  
July 7, 1924.

Dear Sir:

A few lines to let you know that your friend Mr. Joseph Coveleski died on the Friday 13 day of June 1924 and as he wished I am answering his letters. I am his sister-in-law.

Please answer my letter.

Mrs. Charles E. Coveleski  
455 Plum St., Mount Carmel, Pa.  
P.S. If you owe Mr. Coveleski send it in my name as I have a lot to pay his expenses. I will send you the stamps if you want them.



## Covers

	Catalog	Realized
CZSG 37 var. Pair w/perfs thru center .....	Est \$20	\$3.60
38a Vertical pair, one w/o overprint.....	Est 200	15.00
CZSG 38.5 Vert pr w/ovpt bottom sht margin .....	Est 20	3.60
39 Vert pr perf P .....	Est 20	4.00
39e Center inv, ovpt reads down .....	Est 15	5.00
55b Horiz pr, one w/o ovpt .....	Est 60	5.50
First Aero Trip w/#41 .....	-----	5.50
Similar cover w/#45 .....	-----	6.00
First Flight CZ-USA 1920, w/#43 .....	-----	9.50
Similar cover w/strip of 5 #43 .....	-----	6.00
Similar cover w/#47 "the only cover known with this stamp" .....	-----	8.50
First Submarine Trip Ocean-to-Ocean .....	-----	12.50

## Stamps

1 */° 30 varieties, 15 used .....	Est 725	57.50
2a * CANAL ZONE inverted, on piece .....	Est 50	6.75
3a * CANAL ZONE inverted.....	40	7.00
8 * .....	10	3.00
9 */° 50 varieties, 23 used .....	Est 108	8.50
10b ° L of CANAL sideways.....	Est 75	11.50
12 */° 93 varieties, 27 used .....	Est 501	10.00
CZSG 12.28 2 stamps bar at bottom .....	Est 50	1.50
CZSG 12.13 ° PANAAM .....	20	1.40
13 */° 77 varieties, 24 used .....	Est 506	14.00
14b ° Overprint inverted.....	25	4.75
15 * .....	20	11.00
19 */° 34 varieties, 11 used .....	Est 107	15.00
CZSG 32c.6 * 2c panes in cover of 1c booklet: "Five of these booklets were sold at the Ancon CZSG at 25¢ each before the error was discovered, and booklets called in. The clerk, Mr. Geo. Backer, who furnished this information was obliged to make up the loss. ...."	Est 100	10.00
33a * CANAL ZONE double, block of 21 .....	Est 200	3.00
38a * Vert strip of 20, & vert strip of 10, each column w/o ovpt on top stamp and on selvage, CZSG 38.5 .....	Est 500	66.00
39a * Pane of 100 with 10th vert column w/o ovpt. (53b? or 56c?) .....	Est 1500	160.00
39d or 53a * Pane of 100 ovpt down .....	Est 1500	16.00
39e * Center inv & ovpt down. Blk 4 .....	Est 200	27.50
CZSG 39.6 * "Split head" top pair in blk of 4. See CZS p. 92, Fig 7.27 .....	Est 2000	15.00
—* 1c and 2c booklets, 24 stamps each .....	-----	1.75
40 * Sheet of 100 perf P .....	Est 1500	20.00
51 */° Perf P. Blk of 20 and 6 used .....	Est 1000	6.50
53d * Ovpt missing on left column (error pane in booklet of 24 stamps).....	Est 1500	45.00
CZSG 53.4 * CANA diag. & L raised See CZS p. 98, Fig 7.47 .....	Est 1000	10.50
60a * Sheet of 100, 10th column with CANAL double .....	Est 1500	57.50
J1 Blk of 10 with 2 each upright E and C .....	Est 200	9.00

## #27 C NAL ZONE

Scott #27 has been found with the first "A" of CANAL missing. The "A" is completely missing except for a tiny portion of the lower left leg. The cancel appears to be Cristobal HS-11, Var. A. The variety has not previously been reported.

Charles S. Marlott

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